



**Aces, Knights win state championships — B4**

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## The most influential people of 2017

**BY MILES LAYTON**  
 Editor

Personalities dominated much of the news coverage in 2017 in Chowan County.

State Representative Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, Mayor Roland Vaughan and Superintendent Rob Jackson set the tone for the conversation through much of the year.

Steinburg was in the headlines for his conservative approach to government, co-sponsoring HB2 legislation and his plans to shed a light on the "secret society" of the prison system in the wake of violence from a failed inmate escape at Pasquo-

tank Correctional Institution.

Steinburg compares himself to U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, a conservative Republican who served five terms.

"I really admire his ability to stand up for things and fight like nobody else I'd ever seen — he was a rock star," Steinburg said during an interview last spring when HB2 "the bathroom bill" was dominating the news cycle. "I said if I were ever



STEINBURG



VAUGHAN



JACKSON

in office, this is who I would like to emulate in my philosophy. I have constituents tell me all the time 'you remind me of Jesse Helms because you are very outspoken, very articulate and you don't care if people like what you are saying and you're not playing to the crowd. In many regards, I consider it to be a compliment.'

Like Helms, Steinburg's convictions held firm as he championed HB2 legislation that drew national media attention.

"The number one job of government, in my opinion, is to protect the citizens that I represent; to make sure they are safe," he said. "That's the president's number one job. It's the governor's number one job. It's any elected official and state official, so it's not just an after thought. That is our primary responsibility to promote and protect the safety and welfare of each and every individual. That's what we're there to do."

See PEOPLE, 3A



### Meeting an author

Those visiting the Chowan Arts Council during Christmastime experienced a rare treat — the opportunity to meet northeastern North Carolina author Douglas Quinn who was there signing copies of his books including three highly successful children's book series. — B1

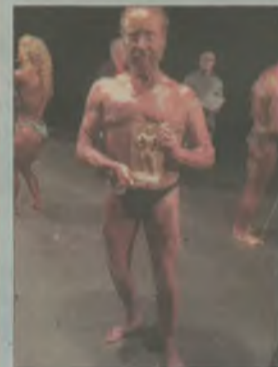


### Pets of the Week

Check out some of the pets the Tri-County Animal Shelter offers that would love to start the new year in a home of their very own. — B2

### Year for record books

Between Aces' baseball winning the championship and football and softball victories, among others, last year was one for the record books for Aces' sports teams. — B4



### Prayer is powerful

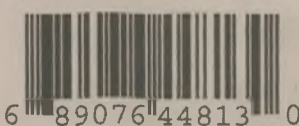
Chris Cordon relates how prayer helped him in his journey of winning first place in a body-building competition and having his aortic heart valve replaced — A4

### Program betters lives

Ruth Bass and Mary Swanner of Edenton Baptist Church would like to hear from local women who are interested in bettering their lives through involvement in "Pathways to Hope," a program of the Christian Women's Job Corps. — B1



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## GOODBYE TO 2017



CHOWAN HERALD FILE PHOTOS

## 2017's legacy of memories

**BY MILES LAYTON**  
 Editor

Though 2017 is in the history books, we should reflect on the events, personalities and achievements that shaped Chowan County this past year.

We endured an algal bloom, celebrated anniversaries, won a state championship and created much good will through charity.

### January

Alexander James Perry was the first baby of 2017 born at Vidant Chowan Hospital. The little guy was born New Year's Day and he weighed 10 pounds, 2 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. Wow! That was a big baby.

Other news that month involved how Chowan County property owners who lived near a planned wind energy facility in the county filed a second lawsuit seeking to

overtune county decisions that allowed the project to move forward.

The lawsuit asked the court to revoke the Timbermill Windmill conditional use permit on the grounds that Environmental Assessment and completeness issues were not completely argued.

### February

The Chowan County Commission approved an agreement allowing the Edenton Historical Commission to restore the historic Chowan County Jail and make it available as a public exhibit.

Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce recognized the contributions of Gigi Charelbois, Ben Speller and to Katy Ebersole, posthumously.

### March

March came in like a lamb, but left like a lion.

County officials discussed plans to address critical facility issues at John A. Holmes High

School. Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent Rob Jackson described the school board as being at a crossroads in regards to the high school. The board needed direction about replacing or renovating the current facility.

In other news, Cathy Smith was hired as the county's finance officer. The post had been vacant for nearly a year following the departure of Willie Mark Carawan. Smith had worked at the local hospital for 33 years, most recently as staff accountant.

Also, Miles Layton was hired as editor of the Chowan Herald. Layton replaced former Chowan Herald editor Reggie Ponder, who had assumed reporting duties for the Daily Advance.

And Ronald Wynegar was named as the 10th president of College of the Albemarle. A veteran community college teacher and administra-

tor, Wynegar came to COA from Western Nevada College where he was serving as vice president of student and academic affairs.

Edenton Baptist Church celebrated its 200th anniversary. Banners that read "great is thy faithfulness" and "entertaining a hope" hung from the walls that had seen decades of worship.

"Whoever has studied church history church history and through every contribution of every pastor, the constant reality has been the faithful presence and leadership of God," said Reverend Kenneth Word, pastor emeritus.

The Chowan County Emergency Response Dive Team recovered a gun tossed into the Chowan River during a high speed chase. Detective John McArthur found the handgun

See YEAR, 6A

## Veteran, gentleman joins God's legions

**BY REBECCA BUNCH**  
 Staff Writer

Longtime Edenton Postmaster James Madison Bond died Christmas Day at the Crystal Coast Hospice House in Newport, NC. He was 94.

See BOND's obituary on page A2.

During World War II, Bond served in the high risk position of tail-gunner in numerous sorties over Germany with the Eighth Air Force's 385th Bombardment Group. Bond was among a group of American soldiers honored in 2016 with the National Order of the Legion of France for his service during the war in helping to liberate France from the Nazis. A reception in his honor was held at American Legion Post 40 in Edenton where Bond was a member for about 30 years.

Former Post 40 Com-

See BOND, 5A

## New prison official named

**BY JON HAWLEY**  
 For the Chowan Herald

A former secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Safety is returning to the department to replace a high-ranking official who stepped down after the murders

of four correctional employees at Pasquotank Correctional Institution. DPS announced last week that Reuben Young will become the interim chief deputy secretary of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Young replaces David Guice, who stepped down less than three weeks after a failed



YOUNG

See PRISON, 2A

## First baby born in Chowan County in 2018

**BY REBECCA BUNCH**  
 Staff Writer

One lucky couple started 2018 with a special event in their lives that they won't ever forget — they are the parents of the area's first New Year's baby.

On Jan. 1, at 10:47 a.m.,

Jessica Lawrence, 35, and her fiance, Carlton Williams, 50, of Plymouth, welcomed little Carley Raye Williams, who weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section at Vidant Chowan Hospital by Dr. Peter Boehling of

Edenton.

Lawrence said she had experienced blood pressure problems prior to her pregnancy and had developed gestational diabetes during it that had required close monitoring. She said that during a doctor's appointment she went to last week

her blood pressure had gotten so high that a decision was made that she should go ahead and have the baby prior to her February due date.

"I left my doctor's office and came straight to the

See BABY, 5A